

Town councilman and former mayor Jermaine Hatton works as a bank account executive and highlights his financial background as one of the reasons he is running again for council. His major focus on the council has been the Streetscape project and he said that the process of reaching out to make contacts and getting the financial footing in place has been slower than he anticipated. Hatton says "I'm a doer" and is committed to finishing the project and says that he has the knowledge and skills to get the project through. Hatton moved to Townsend about 10 years ago.

Hatton voted against the town's Renter's Ordinance adopted in April saying that the county and state already have enforcement mechanisms in place to protect renters and have more resources to enforce those mechanisms. He says the ordinance brings an extra layer of bureaucracy to the town and he would prefer to simply identify who the town's landlords are and have them apply for a simple business license. He would also like to have a slower phase in of the ordinance now that it has passed.

Hatton's view on the streetlight fees is to have special lighting districts based on the lighting needs of each district and have fees based on those needs which he says equalizes the costs and makes the process more equitable.

Hatton favored the rezoning of the Carter Farm approved in April to allow for a higher density residential development, which passed in April. He said the project fits in with the town's comprehensive plan and the property is zoned for development and he sees no reason to go against something already in the plan. He adds that the development brings in more revenue for the town while having a minimal impact on the residents since the traffic into and out of the development will be via the newly annexed property on Rt. 71.

He said the town's biggest priorities are to finish Phase II of Streetscape and to start getting the funding for Phase III. He also says it is a priority for the town to find additional revenue resources without raising taxes. One thing he would like to do is make Townsend a 5G broadband internet town that would attract technology-based small businesses that would require high quality internet.

Photo credit: Jermaine Hatton